GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3779
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
ECO REGENERATION
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Union Government for eco-regeneration in Tsunami hit areas including Andaman and Nicobar Islands ;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether the Government monitors the natural mangrove regeneration and wetland habitat of this island ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme, financial assistance has been provided to Tamil Nadu (Rs. 13.56 Crore), Kerala (Rs. 2.71 Crore) and Andhra Pradesh (Rs.3.55 Crore) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining forest lands.After the Tsunami, Andaman & Nicobar Administration has taken up coastal belt plantation over an area of 101 ha land during 2005 - 06 and 89 ha area has already been brought under plantation. The Union Territory has also taken up the plantation of Mangrove species in the degraded Mangrove areas, and 7.3 ha area has been planted with appropriate Mangrove species. The UT Administration has been advised by Scientific Institutions to keep areas where mangroves are drying under observation for evolving suitable treatment for such areas. An amount of Rs. 0.85 Crore has been released to the State of Tamil Nadu for Conservation and Management of Mangroves, and similarly Rs.0.45 Crore for Wetlands which encompasses activities like catchment area treatment, soil & water conservation and bio-diversity enhancement.

(c), (d) & (e) A three-tier system at Local level, State level and National level is in operation for monitoring of implementation of schemes on Conservation of Mangroves and Wetlands in the country. Both the National & State-level Committees are constituted at apex levels. The National Committees are chaired by Secretary (Environment & Forests) or his nominee.The State level Committees are headed by Chief Secretary or his nominee. The Forest Survey of India also undertakes biennial assessment of forests on a nation-wide basis, including mangroves in Andaman & Nicobar Islands using Satellite Imagery.